

I am very disturbed by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is harmful to our democracy and perfect example of the dangers of media consolidation.

The public airwaves used by Sinclair are free and belong to me and you, and Sinclair is obligated to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line, they have more control over what we will see or not see and this is anti-democratic in the extreme. It is vital that we see real people from our own communities on the air and more substantive news, and fairness in reporting about issues that matter. Requiring stations to air an anti-Kerry film without balance (no different from requiring stations to run an anti-Bush film days before the election) is just plain wrong.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.